

Gen. Bedell Smith, 65, Dead of Heart Attack

Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, 65, chief of staff in Europe during World War II who later served in the cold war as Ambassador to Russia and head of the Central Intelligence Agency, died of a heart attack last night as an ambulance rushed him to Walter Reed Army Hospital.

Gen. Smith was stricken at his home, 4400 Garfield street N.W.

He had been in ill health for some time. He was listed in critical condition for many months last year, but after treatment for pneumonia and a lung abscess was discharged in good condition in September, 1960. He re-entered the hospital this year.

Gen. Smith earned the unofficial title of "general manager" of the World War II in Europe while chief of staff to General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower.



GEN. W. BEDELL SMITH

(1952)

—Star Staff Photo

Envoy to Moscow

And at the end of the war he took over as United States Ambassador to Moscow, serving in that post three years before being named head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

With his wide knowledge of Russia, Gen. Smith in 1953 was transferred by President Eisenhower, becoming Undersecretary of State.

He stepped down from this post in 1954 to enter private industry as head of AMF Atomics, Inc.

At the start of today's Senate session, Senator Mansfield said Gen. Smith had been "one of the great soldiers in World War II and also one of the great diplomats of our time."

"His life was a lesson in byword," Senator Mansfield said.

Senator Richard M. Nixon, a Republican of California, the assistant minority leader and Senator Carl Albert, Republican of Kansas, joined in praising Smith.

CIA Director Allen Dulles, in a personal letter of sympathy to Mrs. Smith said, "The country has lost one of its great soldier-statesmen and outstanding international leaders. It was a real loss to have someone so dedicated to him."

Gen. Smith was born in Minneapolis and attended public schools there, having in the Indian Guard. He won a Purple Heart in 1917 and served in World War I.

ington for military intelligence duty. He later was intelligence officer and adjutant of the 379th Infantry at Camp Sherman, Ohio.

After various assignments, including a tour of duty in the Philippines, Gen. Smith attended the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., and the General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., and was graduated from the Army War College.

While an instructor at Fort Benning, he wrote a paper which won the praise of the then commandant, Gen. George C. Marshall.

In October, 1939, Gen. Marshall appointed Gen. Smith assistant secretary of the Army General Staff and, the following September, as secretary of the newly created Combined Chiefs of Staff.

Picked by Marshall

It was Gen. Marshall, who also picked Gen. Smith to serve as chief of staff to Gen. Eisenhower, thus forming the top echelon team that ran World War II operations in Europe.

Gen. Eisenhower once listed Gen. Smith as one of the four United States Army officers capable of being great chiefs of staffs.

During secret negotiations in Lisbon, seeking to bring about Italy's surrender, the general donned civilian clothes and traveled as plain "Mr. Walter Smith." In behalf of Gen.

With the cold war yet to start after the German surrender, President Truman appointed the general as Ambassador to Russia in 1948. At the request of the President, Congress permitted Gen. Smith to retain his military rank while serving in the diplomatic post.

In 1949, according to the general's long-standing request for return to Army duty, President Truman accepted Gen. Smith's resignation from the diplomatic post "with great reluctance."

Commanded First Army

After a Florida vacation, Gen. Smith became commander of the 1st Army with headquarters at Governor's Island, N. Y. But within less than a year, he left this post to become director of the CIA. Despite his impressive record of previous years, this was probably the toughest task he had yet faced.

It became his job, as head of the super-secret intelligence agency, to try to determine what the Russians were doing and what the Russians were doing to do, either directly or through one of their satellite nations. To make matters worse, the United States was a rookie in the international cloak and dagger game.

He commanded for the better part of the American people some of the most important officials—the way the CIA operated in gathering intelligence for the State Department.

information and writing reports, he buoyed the morale of CIA personnel.

In January, 1953, he left the CIA to be sworn in as Undersecretary of State, continuing his close professional and personal association with President Eisenhower.

He became the State Department's trouble shooter, playing a major part in the French withdrawal from Indo-China that ended the Communist's first major encroachment on Southeast Asia.

Finally, in October, 1954, Gen. Smith left the State Department to become president and chairman of the board of AMF Companies, a subsidiary of American Machine & Foundry Co.

At the time of his death he lived at 4400 Garfield street N.W. His wife, the former Mrs. Mary Chuse, they had been married since 1917, just before he started his officer career.

Gen. Smith had 22 children and foreign decorations. Among them was the Soviet Union's Order of Kutuzov, the highest Soviet military honor.

When he resigned as Undersecretary of State, Gen. Smith said the American people some of the most important officials—the way the CIA operated in gathering intelligence for the State Department.

He said: "Most important of all, try to realize that some of the most important successes of the conduct of foreign policy are those that can't be talked about."

